



SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

Our Corps exists to fight and win our nation's battles. At the present, our nation, our Corps and the Second Marine Aircraft Wing -- is at war in against global extremism and is preparing to fight and win battles yet to unfold. We will focus our efforts on four objectives. First, do whatever we need to do to win the fight in Afghanistan. Second, ensure that our squadrons and detachments that support MEUs, UDPs, SPMAGTFs and Navy Carriers -- are ready for any and all missions they may be asked to conduct when they deploy and that they remain at the highest state of readiness and proficiency while deployed. Third, this Wing will be ready to answer the nation's call for any contingency large or small. This means we need to be able to deploy combat ready units within 72 hours of tasking -- and ensure those units are able to fight decisively upon arrival. Fourth, for our FRS's to train the next generation of Marines to fly and fight the MV-22 Osprey, CH-53E Sea Stallion, AV-8B Harrier and F-35B Lightning II. All four Wing objectives focus on readiness. The primary ingredient in achieving all four is professionalism. If we focus 100% of our energies on doing things right in garrison, on liberty, in training, work-ups, and in combat -- we will achieve all four objectives -- and we will be ready to fight today's and tomorrow's

battles. We need every Marine, Sailor and warfighting asset in the fight. In the Second Marine Aircraft Wing we will:

-Be disciplined. We will do things the right way -- always -- even when no one is watching. We will insist that our peers, subordinates and seniors do the same. We will focus on being "brilliant in the basics". Executing the basics exceptionally well, day in and day out, will improve our performance. You can spot a good squadron a mile away. They execute the basics well every day. They don't cut corners and they share and learn from their mistakes.

-Understand and mitigate the Blue Threat: Statistically, for the Air Wing, the "Blue threat" has proven to be much more lethal than anything the enemy (Red threat) can throw at us in combat. The Blue threat includes bad planning, bad decision-making, poorly conceived tactics, bad maintenance, environment, poor execution, and poor leadership. Operational Risk Management (ORM) was designed to help units and leaders avoid some of the risk areas that have historically caused us problems. I've seen many mishaps in both ground and aviation units that had perfectly filled out ORM sheets. We need to dig a bit deeper, and do a lot more than fill out checklists. We need to study these risk areas like we would a SAM site or IED belt. Bottom line, know your stuff -- understand the Blue threat and plan, train and lead, train your Marines and sailors to avoid that lethal threat like we would an enemy SAM site or IED belt. If you see something that someone else is doing that will help us in the Force Preservation realm, one that helps us fight more effectively -- tell your leadership about it so they can pass it to me. If it makes sense, we will implement it ... quickly

-Maintain proficiency and currency. An alarming number of our flying mishaps occur when pilots are not current. In fact, it is the common thread in most of our mishaps. Unit commanders will ensure that all of their aircrew fly a minimum of 15 hours per month -- especially those deployed at sea.

-Take care of our people. Take care of our gear. The American people count on us to be the force that is the most ready when the nation is least ready. Every single piece of gear, every single Marine is vital to maintaining our readiness posture. Any loss, large or small slows us down, makes us less efficient and less ready. As such, every Marine and sailor in the Wing needs to understand the connection between Force Preservation and Warfighting Readiness. Those two concepts are 100% mutually supporting. We are going to train hard, but smartly. We are going to go on liberty and have fun, but do it responsibly. We will execute our mission as we trained -- closing with and destroying the enemy, while not letting the Red or Blue threat score any cheap wins.

-Share our mistakes openly-- attack their root causes aggressively -- learn -- adapt -- improve. To meet our four objectives we will need to train hard -- always. We are going to make some mistakes along the way. When we do, we need to capture the lessons learned from that mistake and ensure we share them with others so they don't make the same one again.

-Be good leaders. When two or more Marines are present one is always in charge. I expect every Marine to take this responsibility seriously and demonstrate the moral courage to stop things when they appear unsafe -- or stupid. This responsibility extends to off-duty activities; look out for and take care of each other. Step in (up) when necessary. While visiting one of our Wing Osprey squadrons at 29 Palms I saw two Marines on a platform working on an MV-22. I donned a cranial and climbed the ladder to talk to them. A Corporal turned to see who I was, looked at my name tag (which clearly told him who I was) and the first thing out of his mouth was "Sir, you need to attach your chin strap immediately." I had failed to don my cranial correctly and this Corporal called me on it -- and I gave him a coin for having the spine to call me out and to make me do the right thing. That is exactly what I need from every one of my Marines.

This "policy" is all about readiness and warfighting prowess. Safety will flow naturally from an organization that is doing things right. That we will do.

J. M. Davis

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